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Scorn for the Shirker-Backward Steps

The President's "sermon" to the International Congress of Mothers was characteristic. It breathed that lofty moral enthusiasm and scorn of cowardice which his countrymen have long since associated with Mr. ROOSEVELT's spoken and written words. It will be remembered that Joseph Surface was also a man of "fine sentiments." Our distinguished preacher was at his best in the scorn which he expressed for the "shirker." He likened him to the soldier that flinches from duty. As we have been advised by the same authority that "words are only good when backed up by deeds," it may be proper to inquire how far the President's scorn for "shirkers" has been borne out by his own deeds.

For twenty years the American Federation of Labor has been engaged in an unlawful conspiracy, under both the Federal and State laws, to deny the right to work to any laboring man who would not join one of its constituent bodies. For this purpose it has continuously maintained boycotts against such manufacturers as would not agree to discharge every independent laborer, and its cruel power has been so effective that in some industries it has "unionized"-that is, enslaved-nearly every rnanufacturer. It has condemned thousands of independent laboring men to poverty and ruined many manufacturers by the ruthless embargoes which it has levied upon their interstate commerce. As to the character of such a conspiracy. Mr. ROOSEVELT is on record as stating that it was well described by the Anthracite Coal Commission as "tyranny pure and simple."

That this interference with interstate a justified the interposition of the Federal Government was authoritatively affirmed by the Supreme Court in 1895 in the Debs case, when the court declared that, with or without the Sherman anti-trust law, the Lederal Government had an inherent power and duty to end by peaceful suit boycotts on interstate trade. Mr. ROOSEVELT's present Secretary of War, the Hon. WILLIAM H. TAFT, a Circuit Judge, ruled thirteen years ago that the Sherman anti-trust law was especially applicable to such boycotts.

While no doubt exists or has existed as to the law, yet its specific application | this was the answer he got: to the American Federation of Labor. whose national headquarters are almost within the shadow of the White House, was finally adjudged in the Danbury Hat case, when the Supreme Court unanmously declared that the American Federation of Labor, upon its own admissions, was an unlawful conspiracy under the Sherman anti-trust law.

The President has not been wanting n promises to enforce this law. In his annual message of 1903 he said:

"Whenever either corporation, labor unon o ividual, disregards the law or acts in a spirit of bitrary and tyrannous interference with the lights of others, whether corporations or individpals, then where the Federal Government has jurisliction it will see to it that the misconduct is stopped paying not the slightest heed to the position or wer of the corporation, the union or the individal, but only to one vital fact-that is, the question whether or not the conduct of the individual or aggregate of individuals is in accordance with the aw of the land."

Again, in his special message of Janumry 31, 1908, the President declared that the report of the Anthracite Coal Strike Commission "should serve as a chart for the guidance of both legislative and executive officers." The report of that commission had said of the boycott:

"If attempted it is unlawful and is to be pu down by the sovereign power of the State and

A still mon striking promise was conained in the memorable statement made by President ROOSEVELT to a delegation of the American Federation of Labor who on March 21, 1906, visited the White House. The President then said:

" During the four and a half years that I have seen President I do not remember an instancwhere the Government has invoked the right of ction against a combination of laborers. We have invoked it certainly a score of times against combinations of capital; I think possibly oftener, Thus, though we have secured the issuance of in functions in a number of cases against capitalistic binations, it has happened that we have never | Court? irled to secure an injunction against a combination

of labor. But, underesons me, sendemon, if I over | convention of 1864 made a serious mis- tion of a vagrant law the purlieus of thought it necessary, if I thought a combination of laborers were doing wrong. I would apply for an injunction against them just as quickly as against

How has he who but yesterday expressed his unutterable scorn for the shirker" carried out these promises? The American Federation of Labor has for twenty years continuously conducted these unlawful boycotts against manufacturers. In its petition to intervene in the Danbury Hat case it admitted that

the constitution of the said American Federation of Laber, petitioner, makes special provision for the prosecution of boycotta. * * * That under the provisions of said constitution many so-called hoycotts have been and several are now being prosecuted by petitioner, pursuant to approval of ts said executive council."

Let no one cherish the delusion that the last decision of the Supreme Court will in any way affect the President's policy. His contempt for that august tribunal is too well known to require comment. The President has nullified its recent decision not merely by negative inaction, but has sought by affirmative action to make it a dead letter. THE SUN alleges:

1. That President ROOSEVELT immediately after the decision in the Danbury Hat case sent for a member of Congress and asked him to prepare a bill to exempt the laboring class from the provisions of the Sherman anti-trust law.

2. That when the District Attorney of Louisiana, under the foolish delusion that the President meant what he said in his message of 1903, indicted some seventy-three labor leaders who were paralyzing the interstate and foreign commerce of New Orleans, President ROOSEVELT'S Attorney-General promptly halted the legal proceedings.

3. That President ROOSEVELT through his Attorney-General has sent secret instructions to the District Attorneys throughout the United States, directing that no proceedings shall be begun against any labor organization under the decision in the Danbury Hat case without special direction of the Attornev-General.

4. That the Attorney-General has failed to proceed under the Danbury Hat case decision against any labor organization; and we venture the prophecy that he

5. That President ROOSEVELT, the Attorney-General and SAMUEL GOM-PERS and some other estimable but deluded gentlemen who represent special interests are now busily engaged in contriving some legal expedient to make the Sherman anti-trust law inapplicable to combinations of labor, and the President is thus attempting to shirk his responsibility by shifting it to the overburdened shoulders of Congress.

A more amazing exhibition of political hypocrisy has rarely if ever been witnessed in the history of American politics. No President has ever professed so much civic righteousness. His professions would fill not merely a volume but an encyclopædia.

That faith mar not wholly give way to cynicism THE SUN prefers to contrast with the duplicity of Mr. Roose-VELT in dealing with the labor problem the shining example of the Hon. JOSEPH G. CANNON, who makes no special pretension to superior civic righteousness. Like a rock he has withstood the efforts of Mr. ROOSEVELT and SAMUEL GOMPERS to weaken the power of the courts to protect property rights by modifying the writ of injunction. When Mr. Gom-PERS, falsely claiming to own the labor vote, attempted to defeat the Speaker and his no less patriotic and courageous colleague, Mr. LITTLEFIELD of Maine,

"But, speaking for myself, I had rather quit public life now, and at the age of 70 quit forever. true to the civilization we have developed, true to the distribution of powers to the legislative, th executive and the judiciary, which are a check upon each other, than to retain public office at such a sacrifice to my own self-respect and such terrible cost to the country. While God gives me life to live I will not by my act take from any citizen be he rich or poor, union man or non-union man, farmer or mechanic, shoemaker or papermaker, doctor or lawyer, any right which is given to another. I will not vote for any law which will make fair for one and foul for another."

So spake JOSEPH G. CANNON on September 5, 1905, to SAMUEL GOMPERS and to THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

The Elevation of the City Court.

Senator JOHN T. McCALL of the Sixeenth Senate district has introduced in the Legislature a concurrent resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of this State whereby the City Court of New York shall be consolidated with the Supreme Court and the ten City Court Justices shall upon the adoption of the amendment by the people become Justices of the Supreme Court.

There are already ninety-eight Suoreme Court Justices in the State of New York-almost enough to constitute a military company with the proper number of officers and non-commissioned officers. There is no occasion to increase the number, and if there was there would be no propriety in making the increase in this manner. The Justices of the City Court were elected to discharge the duties and perform the functions of a court of inferior jurisdiction. The office which they hold is none the less important or responsible on this account; but these men should not be elevated by a constitutional amendment into a position of power and responsibility which was not contemplated by the electors who chose

them for their present places. If this sort of thing is to be tolerated why not adopt a constitutional amendment making all the Justices of the Peace in the State Justices of the Supreme

The fact is that the constitutional I fact, in our opinion, that under the opera-

take when it consolidated the Superior Court and Court of Common Pleas in this city, the City Court of Brooklyn and the Superior Court of Buffalo with the Supreme Court. They were tribunals which though possessing a general jurisdiction were confined in its exercise to the localities in which they were situated. They had come into existence naturally as a part of the organic growth of our institutions to fulfil a recognized want. It would have been much wiser to continue them instead of merging them in the Supreme Court. It is a good thing in the judiciary as in other branches of the Government to establish and preserve grades of rank, so that where a man has manifested his fitness for judicial office in a lower grade he may be promoted to a position of greater power and influence. The possibility of such promotion in the judiciary was largely done away with by this consolidation, and one of the results has been that some men have been elected to the Supreme Court who never could have found their way to that bench in the first instance under the old system on account of their lack of experience or lack of proved efficiency.

If Senator McCall's proposed amendment should be adopted-a possibility which it is difficult to contemplate seriously-a single session of the Legislature would not elapse without the introduction of a bill to establish a new tribunal with power and jurisdiction akin to that of the present City Court and with ten new Justices with a salary of \$12,000 apiece to be paid out of the treasury of the city of New York.

Foraker.

FORAKER is "down and out." FORAKER s "buried." BURTON, who tried to "save our fair city" of Cleveland so gallantly, is as good as elected Senator in FORA-KER's place. So the parasites of the Administration are yelling joyously-all the time servers, all the led captains of politics, all the weak and silly sisters who are bound to be on the winning side.

Perhaps these rejoicings are premature. At any rate, they are despicable. If FORAKER has been beaten by ROOSE-VELT and Cox. "Blifil and Black George." there must be many citizens of Ohio, as there are of the rest of the United States, who will not forget what he has been beaten for.

For insisting on justice, even to black men. For performing with conscientious independence his duties as a Senator in Congress. For loyalty to the Constitution. For defending the courts. For maintaining the legal and traditional American respect for the rights of property. For insisting upon the constitutional functions of the Senate. For refusing to fall down and worship the Brazen Calf.

The luminous criticism and opposition which Senator FORAKER has brought to bear upon the hasty and epileptic projects of law emanating from the White House have been of the highest value even when he has been overborne. Intellectual powers of the first class, judgment, sanity, that real eloquence which avoids claptrap and is full of penetrating analysis and copious knowledge; above all, a courage above personal consequences-these qualities have made Senator FORAKER'S service in the Senate useful and memorable.

Perhaps Ohio will be proud enough of FORAKER when the present mania has died away a little to keep him in the post

That Vagrant Law in Washington. To meet the emergencies of the situation in Washington-we refer to the criminal situation, of course-many remedies have been proposed. That the town is crowded with pickpockets, burglars, confidence men, &c., is obvious, That the police force is not able to cope with them is as plain as the nose on your face. THE SUN recently suggested a vagrant law, properly enforced. To this a number of Congressmen have given adherence, introducing bills to that effect. The result of all this will be apparent later. The majestic processes of Congress cannot be expedited. The outside world, rude or anxious, as the case may be, must wait.

Meanwhile the Washington papers, or some of them, are clamoring for more policemen. It is true that in proportion the town has already more than its quota. The circumstances, however, are peculiar. Superficially it would appear that Washington has force enough for a city of its size. Considering such towns as Boston, Baltimore, and so on, it is liberally supplied. On the other hand there are considerations which must be weighed. It is not only that the capital is especially equipped with slums for the entertainment of the hobo crowd and with societies for their support and comfort. The additional fact remains that the Federal Government now makes serious drains upon the police establishment. It may not be generally known, but the fact is patent that the White House alone uses more than thirty of the best policemen in the city. During Mr. CLEVELAND'S first term there were eight men on duty at the White House. And, by the way, Washington then was much more orderly than it is to-day. The advance of the Coxey army, some years later, led to the precautionary measure of an increase. Then the emergencies of the Spanish war, in Mr. McKinley's time, seemed to warrant the presence of some additional force. Under Mr. ROOSEVELT, however, the White House detail has risen to more than thirty, with a generally broadening prospect. How many more men that prospect will include as time passes we have no means of knowing. The immediate moment is quite enough.

We still believe, however, that a vagrant law is what Washington needs for its salvation. The question is not that of regulating the criminal population-four times the present force would not do that-it is one of excluding the criminals and keeping themout for the future. Where will they go? That is not for Washington to decide. The problem there is purely local. Distant or outlying neighborhoods must take care of themselves. And it is a

Washington will soon disappear and the refuges of the criminal classes will be obliterated. The normal population of the town is honest and law abiding. The present population is purely fictitiouswe refer, of course, to the idle, the irresponsible and the-necessarily-male-

factors. We still think that our suggestion is the best. To increase the police force of Washington would be to accomplish nothing. To enact a vagrant law of the right kind would be to rid the city of all its most determined enemies.

Hugh Bonner. When HUGH BONNER was appointed Fire Commissioner last month the department was under attack, its administration ineffective, to say the best for it its apparatus admittedly insufficient and faulty. The public, from being extravagantly proud of the department, had become unnecessarily distrustful and unjustly censorious. The finest compliment the citizens could pay to any man was the confidence they gave to the new | after a careful review of the testimony. Commissioner, the unquestioning faith they put in his ability and intention to set things at rights immediately.

Mr. BONNER had earned this trust From the day in 1865 when he became foreman of a fire company he was on public trial daily, and when in 1899 politics put him out of the office of Chief the only excuse for his retirement that could be thought of by those who wanted his job was that he was "too old." No one suggested that he was incompetent; nobody hinted that he was not scrupulously, exactly honest; all that was alleged against him was that a man of 61 must be physically incapacitated for the work of chief. At this HUGH BONNER smiled and proceeded to make himself useful under new conditions.

A record, this of HUGH BONNER'S, as satisfactory as it was long. It is gratifying that the public did not wait until BONNER died to certify its respect for the man who made it. That respect he had possessed for years, and few men have more thoroughly deserved it.

This is a mighty interesting report:

"C. BASCOMB SLEMP, the only Republican Repre sentative in Congress from Virginia, has been offered a position in the Cabinet in the event of TAFT'S election.

Senators Chase and Parsons, who left this city or their homes in southwest Virginia this morning, divulged this information to other party leaders elated over the prospect of a Virginia Republican in the Cabinet. They say it will be one of the reatest advances made by the party in the South in recent years. Some even say that if "APT takes this attitude toward Virginia it will greatly lessen he time within which the party will be predomi nant in this State. Already Senator 4. C. NOEL, of Lee county, the next Republican nominee for Gov-ernor, boasts that he will poll the biggest vote polled by a no ninee of his party in twenty years." The Democratic pluralities in the Old

Dominion State in the Presidential years of 1892, 1896, 1900 and 1904 were respectively 50,715, 19,341, 30,215 and 32,768. Democratic pluralities for Governor in the State in 1889, 1893, 1897, 1901 and 1905 were respectively 42.177, 39.726, 52.815, 35.318 and

The Legislature is Democratic by 102 on joint ballot, there being 121 Democrats in the State Senate and Assembly and 19 Republicans

Mr. SLEMP was elected to the present Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of his father, by 6.752 votes over DAVID F. BAILEY, Independent Republican. Virginia will have 24 delegates to the Republican national convention at Chicago in June. The State's twelve electoral votes will be cast against the Republican Presidential candidate.

Is the reported tender of a Cabinet to Representative SLEMP in the nature of a bribe or a bid; and within the knowledge of the oldest Republican inhabitant has such a reported bribe or bid been advertised so openly and so unblushingly?

It is extremely unpleasant and excessively annoying, no doubt, for an emi nently respectable person, the secretary of the Civil Service Reform Association, to be held up by the police while returning from the City Club to his Madison avenue home and made to disclose the contents of the bundle he is carrying; yet it should not escape attention that equally respectable persons whose homes are not in Madison avenue and who are not in the habit of visiting the City Club have been compelled to submit to such inspections for years. Nor should it be forgotten that burglars sometimes dress decently and carry their plunder through the streets in most unimpeachable appearing handbags. If these facts are borne in mind the hideousness of the outrage perpetrated on ELLIOT H. GOODWIN by Policeman ATANASIO early yesterday morning may seem to be considerably mitigated.

Mr. TAFT's missionaries may do and say many indiscreet things, but he is not responsible for their Protean canvass. They are all things to all men. Heis Judge TAFT in the North and ROOSEVELT in the West. This Alnaschar Cabinet of his may not contain more than four or five thousand members when the campaign ends.

FRANKFORT, Ky., March 12.—E2.-Governor J. C. W. BECKHAM said to-night that he had retired from politics unconditionally.—From THE SUN.

Having with the aid of Colonel BRYAN knocked out the Democratic party of Kentucky, Mr. BECKHAM probably feels that he has done his share.

To Captain APPLERY and the crew of the steamboat Providence, congratulations. They acted as sailormen should act.

The Reported Opinions of Richard Croker. TO THE ELITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Referring to the Cleveland newspaper man's interview in Egypt with the late Boss of New York, published in to day's Sun, I must say that if Mr. Croker is rightly quoted

time has wrought marve s of goodness into him. His praise of Roosevelt "doing God's work to-day cleaning out the rascals," compared to the views he held of him in the years of not long ago, is indeed interesting, for I well remember how he once broke out with an interview about Roosevelt, calling him a wild man and other epithets of that na ture: which, however, in the light of present events

proved that he was not far wrong. Wonderful it is to contemplate the effect as to whose toes are being stepped on: to-day Mr. Croker's are beyond the reach of Mr. Roosevelt's heels, and basking in the warm sunsaine of Egypt enjoying in peace and pienty the fruits of his boss-ism of this city, converted into values beyond the reach of the Roosevelt panic, he is able to philosophize and look complacently upon the less fortu-nate whose heads have come in contact with the

cannot believe that Mr. Croker said the things that are credited to him in this interview. NEW YORK, March 12.

Brownsville. Knicker-Efforts are being made resident's face

Bocker-Which one of them? Famous Enic Rendered Un to Date

His phiz

SOME BURNT FINGERS.

WASHINGTON, March 13.-Republicans and Democrats alike have burned their fingers in the Brownsville matter. It is difficult to determine which of the two groups is the greater sufferer. Only Mr. Foraker and those who have stood with him appear to have emerged from the fray without quite serious embarrassmei. The friends of the President have scorched their digits in their valiant effort to pull his reputation out of the blaze kindled by his impetuosity. The Democrats who have alded in that operation from motives of their own have blisters which they must nurse while they lament the loss of an unusual opportunity.

The report of the majority of the Military

Committee is regarded as a clumsy effort to

support a preconceived opinion. It is a gen-

eral assertion that "some of the soldiers." their number and their identity remaining unknown, did the shooting. A description of the occurrence is introduced for the purpose of making the offence as repulsive as possible. The proof that soldiers were the offenders is declared to be "abundant and conclusive." There is ground for the belief that there are few Judges in the country who would indorse that opinion The minority report, signed by Senators Scott, Foraker, Hemenway and Bulkeley, declares that "the testimony is so contradictory and so much of it is unreliable that it is not sufficient to sustain the charge" against the soldiers. A supplementary report, signed by Senators Foraker and Bulkeley, declares that "the weight of the testimony shows that none of the soldiers participated in the affray." In a seventyeight page statement which accompanies this supplementary report Mr. Foraker and Mr. Bulkeley give the reason for the faith that is in them, and it is impossible to regard it as other than an exceedingly good reason

The error of the President's original order has been conceded by Mr. Roosevelt and recognized by all. The men were discharged without honor and forever debarred from reenlistment in the army and navy, as well as from employment in any civil capacity under the Government. The first retraction was the necessary recall of the order affecting civil employment The next was an order permitting application for reenlistment, the applicant to submit in writing such evidence as he might desire to present showing that he was not implicated the shooting and that he withheld no evidence that might lead to the discovery of the miscreants. There is an obvious absurdity in requiring a man to prove in writing that he is ignorant of the act of some other man. The third step in retraction is Mr. Roosevelt's message of Wednesday recommending the passage of a law authorizing him to reinstate "any man who in his judgment" shall appear to be innocent. His request stops a long way short of justice. He makes no provision for a restoration of the rights which some of these men had acquired by reason of successive enlistments and long service, and does not even suggest that the innocent victims of his impulsiveness shall be paid for the time of their exclusion from the army by his order.

For a time it was thought that the submission of the committee reports would mark the conclusion and the suppression of the whole affair so far as Congress was concerned. It does not now look as though that would be the outcome. The majority report is not at all conclusive, and there may yet be a battle royal over Brownsville on the floor of the Senate.

Perplexity of an Admirer of the Great

Man in the White House. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: For ome reason it is impossible to find a Republican of high or low degree who claims to be able to tell the pecrle why times are depressed, and worse than they were in 1892 even. Then they had no difficulty in saying it was caused by the awful Democrats, but now the Democrats cannot be blamed, for they are too hopelessly in the rear, with little promise of getting near the front in

generation The earth has given forth food enough to feed the people and more, and we never had such good money or so much money, and we have the highest tariff we ever had, but still depression "stalks through the land."

In the past the people have been told that the tariff is the one thing needful and the higher it is the better and it would make every wheel hum and fill every dinner pail, and still we have free trade conditions, as drawn by Republican campaign talkers.

under a high tariff. Along with our depression we have had to witness the unfrocking, as it were, of one of our greatest rulers, and he has been so far put down the line that his name is not cheered at a country banquet, and still he has not hurt any honest man.

According to the speech of the people THE SUN is the greatest of newspapers. rould like to know if it can tell how we reached where we are at without foolishly blaming the great man in the White House, against whom only frenzied financiers rail. NORWICH, Conn., March 12. OBSERVER.

The Stock Exchange a Profitable Field of Inquiry.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In THE SUN of this date is the statement that Mr. Herbert Knox Smith, Commissioner of Corporations, has been requested by his Chief" in the White House at Washington to make investigation of the business conducted upon the New York Stock Exchange.

I respectfully suggest to Mr. Herbert Knox mith-I would not presume so to do to his "Chief"-that the study of the constitution of any organization, whether national or other-wise, is frequently profitable and often may avert embarrassment.

I would especially commend to the careful onsideration of Mr. Herbert Knox Smith the first article of the constitution of the Stock exchange, which is as follows: "The title of this association shall be the

New York Stock Exchange. "Its object shall be to furnish exchange rooms and other facilities for the convenient ransaction of their business by its members. as brokers; to maintain high standards of commercial honor and integrity among its members; and to promote and inculcate just and equitable principles of trade and busi-

The governing committee of the exchange has always jealously guarded this declaration, and when any infringement has occurred has promptly imposed penalty without aid from any exterior source. The second and third clauses of the last paragraph quoted afford. a standard which should appeal to Mr. H. K. Smith or his Chief.

W. H. GRANBERT. NEW YORK, March 13.

His Judgment.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: The message on the Brownsville case sent on March 11 by the President to the Senate concludes as follows:

I therefore recommend the passage of a law exberned are affected, until a year after the passage of the law, and permitting the reinstatement by direction of the President of any man who, in his judgment, shall appear not to be within the class discharge was deemed necessary in order to maintain the discipline and morale of the army.

The italics are mine. "In his judgment. Whose judgment? The man's? Oh, no! Theodore Roosevelt's judgment Curious recommendation, isn't it? Having once experienced the judgment of President Roosevelt in the premises the "man," I should imagine, would hardly care o trust it again. A LOVER OF FAIR PLAY.

NEW YORK, March 13.

Michigan V

THE TAFT OF TO-DAY.

A New Man With New Ideals in the Eyes of His Old Friends.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Mr. leosevelt has assumed from the start the absolute certainty of the election of any one to whom he chose to present a nomina-tion through Presidential influence. The that Taft, with the Roosevelt stamp upon him, could fail to carry either his own State or the nation has probably not even yet made its way past the brass armor belt of the White House consciousness. If such a thought had occurred it is not likely that the l'aft management would have carried the White House hatred of Senator Foraker into the Ohio campaign for delegates with such a rancorous bitterness as to make it impossible for any Foraker man to vote for Taft without a concious sacrifice of self-respect. Taft himself s possibly not unaware that he will need the support of the Foraker element, but every one knows that the Taft campaign has take its fundamental impulses from other than Taft hands. As the matter stands to-day, the Taft movement, if successful, means the absolute political annihilation of Senator Foraker and all his most faithful adherents throughout the State. Their only hope of any recognition whatever lies either in a pase desertion of his cause now, from purely elfish motives, or in the proof at the polls n November that the new machine does not ossess the confidence of the majority of the

That this new machine, through just these

selfish motives, has already captured the

worst elements of the old machine which

Taft got the credit for smashing in the Her-

rick-Pattison campaign is known to every Ohio voter old enough to read and with brains enough to think. As the first step in the political comedy which we have seen here in Ohio Taft comes into the State with a whirl and assails Cox in a speech that buries the whole Cox Cincinnati ticket out of eight and lands a Democratic Governor in columbus with over 40,000 majority, with oud applause from the independents and political reformers. In the second act Taft comes on the stage as a candidate for the Presidency, and high among those who appear residency, and high among those who appear to do obeisance stands George B. Cox, no political corpse, but the living guarantee of Cincinnati's loyal support of her favorite son. Not quite so much applause among the independents and reformers this time, although most of them are trying to beat their brains down to the point of believing that Cox is serving Taft for naught, merely to make people think that his Taft dissevered political head is still on his shoulders. In the third act the scene shifts to Cincinnati with Cox in the leading rôle, dismissing Judges' Ferris and Hosea from the Superior Court with a wave of the hand which would do credit to the Grand Turk, passing upon the local ticket in every detail and finding it composed of just such men as he has delighted to assist into the public service all his life, with Taft—where? Away off in the Phitippines and dead sure to stay there until the election is all over and Cox back on his high seat, with every available Cincinnati office in the hands of men who will help him see to it that Mr. Taft loses no Cincinnati delegates by reason of his convenient absence and silence. Dead silence among the independents and reformers this time. The last two acts, one at Chicago and the other at the ballot box, still remain.

The problem is: Who is to be buncoed in the o do obeisance stands George B. Cox, no

cago and the other at the ballot box, still remain.

The problem is: Who is to be buncoed in the end? 'there are some who still think that the Taft of the Herrick-Pattison campaign is the Taft of to-day. If so, the offending circular which accidentally escaped from the Taft headquarters a few days since merely told the truth. The Taft of an earlier day was not of the Roosevelt type, was temperamentally repugnant to the fireworks theory of running the Presidency or any other office, and could not reasonably be expected to follow such methods as the successor of any man on earth. Within ten days the present writer has heard one of the Secretary's neighbors and admirers express most emphatically bors and admirers express most emphatically the belief that as President he would be wholly unlike Roosevelt. He has heard anwholly unlike Roosevelt. He has heard an other, a Taft delegate to the recent State con-vention and supporting the Secretary with the most intense enthusiasm, declare with the utmost vigor that under no circumstances would he vote for Roosevelt for any office whatever, that he considered him utterly without the mental balance necessary for uch a position, and a constant menace to the

without the mental balance necessary for such a position, and a constant menace to the legitimate business interests of the country. But the real truth is that the Taft of to-day is not the Taft of years gone by. The Roosevelt enthusiasm has swept him from his moorings. The temptation held out to him to ride into the Presidency on the wave of that enthusiasm has overpowered his judgment. He has thrown away the conservatism of a lifetime, and when he declares his present loyal attachment to the Roosevelt programme, root and branch, he means just what he says. To say that much is only to say that he has radically shifted his position, which a man may do and still retain his personal honesty. To say that he will go into the Presidency on that platform and then give the country a conservative administration is to say either that he is personally dishones to that his judgment has become so vacillating that there is no possibility of accurately forecasting his course at all.

vacillating that there is no possibility of accurately forecasting his course at all.

The flurry caused by the Columbus circular is prophetic of just what will mark the whole campaign if he shall be the nominee. Those of his old friends who cannot realize the change through which he has gone under the hypnotic influence of close association with Roosevelt will be continually asserting his conservatism, and his radical supporters will be just as continually asserting his absolute acceptance of Rooseveltism. One winces to think of the number of Ananiases that such a campaign must inevitably develop.

To all the weakness growing out of this shifting of his own position and the wretchedly ill advised mistake of allowing himself to be saddled with Roosevelt's personal feud against Foraker, add the intense opposition of about 40,000 negro voters, whom he can

to be saddled with Roosevelt's personal feud against Foraker, add the intense opposition of about 40,000 negro voters, whom he can conciliate only by repudiating Roosevelt's course in the Brownsville matter, and what have we left on which to buse the theory that he is a strong candidate? Nothing at all except the belief that anybody whatever must be strong in Ohio, or anywhere else, as against William J. Bryan.

That would have been enough at any time previous to the administration of Roosevelt but the possibility must not be forgotten that a good share of the Bryanism which Roosevelt has been manufacturing in such enormous quantities may choose to vote for Bryan himself rather than for a man whose conversion to the faith is so, recent that many of his own personal friends indignantly deny that it has occurred. And if the masses are convinced in the end that it has occurred, how then are Democratic business men to be frightened away from Bryan again, as they were in 1896 and 1800? A man cannot go ten rods in Ohio without finding a Democrat who would be delighted at the chance of voting for Hughes as against Bryan, but as against Taft, nominated and dominated by another, the chances in Ohio so far are decidedly with Bryan.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, March 10.

J. H. W.

Is the Dissenting Opinion a Nuisance? sion of E. S. Ware's interesting letter in THE SUN few days ago in which he illustrated the applicaion of mathematics in determining the correct-

ness of the decisions of the United States Supre-Court is that we should treat the dissenting opinons with respect. It might be a proper deduction that we should have but one Judge of the court; for then, if judged by Mr. Ware's method, his opinions would always

be right. Why should the dissenting opinions of any court of last resort, State or national, he treated with respect? They are always wrong and never state the law. It is of the greatest importance that the law should be certain and that it should be respected. Dissenting opinions serve no good pur-pose. They tend to make the law uncertain, to

cause defeated litigants to think they are wronger and to encourage litigation.

If the law is wrong it should be righted by legislative or constitutional amendments, and not by having the court reverse its decisions. Dissenting opinions are an increasing nuisance. The number of law books containing the decisions of the various ourts of last resort is very large and is increasing. The cumbering of these reports with useless dissenting opinions is wrong.

If dissenting Judges wish to present their views on the cases decided by the majority they should on the cases decided by the bewritten in separate volumes.

JORN T. HUBBARD,

LITCHPIELD, Conn., March 12. To a Violet. You do not wish to linger In limelight bright abiding

But spend your fair existence In shadow hiding. You always are in fashion deheld of eyes admiring; Despite such adulation

You toll not and you spin not. and yet with rare completeness. In circles far outspreading You scatter sweetness

Amid your royal brothers. Flow much you don't remind us

Shy wearer of the purple.

Of certain others MCL MDBURGH WILSON. ABNORMAL SEAS.

From Shipping Illustrated. A writer in the Scientific American outte recently dealt with the effect of ocean waves on the gigantic Lusitania, and it is to be feared casionally got into deep and troubled water, if we may be permitted the simile Waves mountain high are naturally en grafted not only in poetry but also in prose yet the veriest tyro in nautical lore know full well that the term mountain in connection with ocean waves is merely a pleasant figure of speech. Hence there is nothing that is new and true in our contemporary's suggestion that mountainous waves are un known. Vergil, in the Eneid, when telling the tale with respect to the storm in which the bark of Orontes came to grief describe how the devoted craft was at one moment heavens high on a roller's crest and the next almost striking the sea bottom with her keel between two mountains of water. The immortal Shakespeare also makes one of his creations pray that the "God of the great vast" shall "rebuke those surges which wash both heaven and hell." In this passage he does but follow closely on the lines of the Psalmist. Elsewhere too the Bard of Avon writes of the winds, "who take the ruffla billows by the top, curling their monstrou heads and hanging them, with deafening clamor, in the slippery clouds." Falconer himself a sailor-poet of renown, pictured the shuddering ship "engulfed between two fluctuating hills, a long, dark melancholy vale between." Poor Ouida, who has just died in her beloved Italy almost without a cent, perhaps excelled in her word picture of "a night with the black seas yawning it fathomless graves" while the "dense clouds looked to stoop and touch the waves where

high."
The late Charles Reade tells how "the over whelming sea ran in dark watery mountains crested with the devilseh fire." Here with the savoir faire of the master in fiction he super imposed the weird effect of the phosphores cent display, so familiar to seamen unde certain conditions, upon the already compelling wave. Surely the Scientific American writer cannot believe for one moment that the general reader takes such statements sericusly. Nevertheless he errs hugely in asserting that the biggest wave in a severa gale does not exceed thirty feet in Even his context does not support this view Maury, America's sterling seaman son, was a prose poet, but jn his wildest flights he ould scarcely have ventured to describe a thirty foot high sea as looking like one of the green hills of a rolling prairie capped with snow and chasing each other in sport Yet thus he pictured the waves which are often found while running in the easting down along the lone Southern Ocean be tween the meridians of the Cape of Good Hope and Cape Leuwin, Australia! Admira! Fitzroy, founder of the British Weather Bu reau, as Maury was of that now well to the front in Washington, D. C., actually measured ocean waves which were sixty feet from trough to crest. His evidence does not, however, stand alone.

they rose, a mighty wall of waters mountain

Many residents of New York will remember Captain Kiddle when he was in command of large passenger liners in the transatlantic Well, Captain Kiddle, after careful trade. measurement, arrived at the conclusion that waves having an altitude of seventy feet are not unknown. As a general rule ocean waves in motion are compared freely and effectively with hills or with mountains, according to the predilection of the word painter, but these descriptions are rarely if ever accepted at their face value. A celebrated Frenchman Dumont d'Urville, pinned his faith to 100 feet as the maximum height of some of the huge specimens he observed at various times, under many skies, but this statement does certainly verge on the marvellous. The late Admiral Wharton, one of England's bes known hydrographers, was of opinion that seas of from forty to ninety feet in height may be met with when remote from the land. but that the most probable maximum altitude is fifty or sixty feet. We prefer to let it go at that! Our contemporary goes on to say that "tidal" waves are known to reach the height of sixty feet, and there we join

issue at once.

Newspaper reporters are fond of the use of the term tidal in connection with excep tionally high waves and seamen occasionally follow suit. As a matter of fact such a description is worse than useless, for it s misleading and absolutely erroneous Owing to this too frequent misuse of language it is always better to speak or write of abnormal seas rather than waves, inasmuch as a very limited number of people wi have the audacity to refer to tide this last expression is not more inaccurate than that of tidal waves in the same connection. An attempt was made some twelve years ago to trace the origin of the enormous solitary ocean waves, which are not infre-quently met with in the stormy North Atto submarine earthquakes in relatively shoal water known as the Farada; Reef in 50 N. 28 W., which is 6,000 feet above the bed of the ocean in the neighborhood but considerably below the sea surface. Not far from that position in 1884 the double ended telegraph cable ship Faraday experienced a solitary sea which was visible like a ridge of high land on the boundary line of sea and sky about five minutes before groped for the ship and got home. the United States ship San Francisco was crossing the Gulf Stream in 1853, outward bound from New York to her name port, she shipped an abnormal sea-"ten billows heaped in one," as Tom Hood might truly have said—and this carried away with it off her decks 179 officers and men of the troopwhich she had on board. Storm way accompanying Bay of Bengal eyclones in some instances are known to have drifted ships over shallows otherwise impassable where the lead showed the wave was fort; feet high at least, flooded the littoral for many miles and caused the loss of 200,000 ives, either directly or indirectly. These however, are not tidal waves, nor are the what may rightly be referred to as solitary

Lecky, in his classic "Wrinkles in Practical Navigation," called attention to the group-ing together of three or four huge wavearger than their fellows and attributed them to the exceptional squalls of great violence which occur at intervals in nearly every gale In 1893 the steamship Alameda, three days out from Frisco to Auckland, was overrun by two solitary seas of enormous height which flooded the saloons, cleared out the pilot house and put below more than 100 tons of water. Captain H. Parsell, formerly of the famous White Star Line, when chief officer of a 900 ton sailing ship, was sixty feet from the deck at the instant a big sea took him off his feet and landed him in the maintop. Our contemporary will find that the biggest ocean wave is considerably in excess of thirty feet in height and also that the term "tidal" as applied to a wave sixty feet high is a mis-

"Variety" Was All Right.

To the Editor of the Sun-Sir: In a recent disussion on plays and players the writer remarked that in her girlhood days, twenty-three or twenty four years ago, what is now known as vaudeville was then called variety. She went on to say that she with several of her friends of the same age-14 or thereabouts-had witnessed three or four such per formances. Whereupon a gentleman present re merked that "really nice people" did not go to servariety in those days. The writer, a Bostonian. othing out of the way in such performances, which in fact, as far as she remembers, consisted of banjo-ists, jugglers, song and dance artists, &c. Will you kindly let me know if "really nice people" didn't go and why? Under the circumstances was it not ver impolite of the gentleman to make such a remark BROOKLYN, March 13,

Announcement by the Inventor of Perpetual

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: What W! THE SUN give for a scoop? I am Charles Rogers the inventor of perpetual motion, and am about to build my first machine. I have used all mi sloquence on the asinine aggregation inhabiting our editorial sanctume, but the "critter" is entire too smart to be "taken in." Hence I il send this cheap message down to New York and see if there be any editors that are part fool-the only kind that will take any stock in the genius that has bea CHARLES ROGHES

CHICAGO, March 11.

nomer.